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File

Vienna, November 23, 1934.

No. 223

Subject: TRANSMITTING CONFIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM ON
THE SITUATION IN GERMANY.

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith as of
interest to the Department a memorandum of a conversa-
tion which a member of the staff of the Legation has
had with a well informed German during the last few
days. The Legation is familiar with the intimate
connections of this man with well informed circles
in Germany, and, although he is for the present
stationed

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stationed in Austria, the information in the memorandum is based on data gathered during frequent and recent visits to Germany. It is respectfully requested that this memorandum be used for the confidential information of the Department only, as its nature is such that it is comparatively simple to identify this person by reason of the responsible position which he holds.

I may say in the way of comment that the information which the Legation receives from other responsible sources with regard to the situation in Germany is in major accord with most of that contained in this memorandum. We have no information other than that in this memorandum that so many attempts have recently been made on the life of Hitler, but all the other information which we have is to the effect that his seclusion becomes daily more pronounced and his fears of such attempts on his person greater. The information which the Legation has also does not confirm that the prestige of General Goering is decreasing and that there is growing criticism of him in the Reichswehr. On the other hand, information from well informed sources would indicate that the position of General Goering remains practically unimpaired and that his relations with the Reichswehr continue good. In other respects the information in the memorandum is confirmed by all the other reliable data which reaches us.

Respectfully yours,

GEN/lmp.

George S. Messersmith.

File No. 600

Enclosure:

1. Memorandum.